

## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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Date: February 2, 2007 Phone: 919/733-5612

## GOV. EASLEY CALLS FOR FULL FUNDING OF BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE NEEDS

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today asked members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation to work to make sure Congress approves crucial full funding for the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) transition. The U.S. Senate will take up the funding issue next week when it considers a Continuing Resolution for the federal budget.

North Carolina is home to more than 101,000 active duty military personnel at Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station.

Text of the letter follows:

"Adequate funding for the Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) transition is crucial to the defense of this nation and the ability of the military installations in North Carolina to accomplish their mission.

"While funding in the Continuing Resolution passed this week by the House of Representatives adds \$1 billion, it still falls about \$2 billion short of the needed nationwide funding.

"It is critical that the transitions outlined by the BRAC realignments continue without delay. Failure to properly fund this now could derail progress on what is already a tight schedule to implement the changes. Up to \$220 million in projects at Fort Bragg alone could be stalled if funding is not approved.

"I know you join me in my concern that there is the necessary and full funding to make sure the BRAC realignment, particularly in North Carolina, is implemented fully and on schedule.

"I urge you to restore funding in the Senate version of the Continuing Resolution and in the final agreement, as well as in any supplementary funding legislation that may follow."

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